

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 02448 061130Z

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-06 HEW-06 AID-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-13 /055 W

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R 061032Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3803

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 2448

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: US REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND CARICOM DISCUSSIONS ON HOG CHOLERA

1. DRS. ATWELL AND STEINMETZ (REPORTING OFFICERS) EXPLAINED THEIR APHIS AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY TO CARICOM DISCUSSION GROUP DECEMBER 3. ATWELL-FOR THE U.S. STEPS TAKEN WHEN THERE IS AN OUTBREAK OF HOG CHOLERA AND THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE OUTBREAK THAT HAD OCCURRED IN N.J., R.I., MASS. AND N.H. STEINMETZ-FOR HOW U.S. MEAT EXPORT CERTIFICATION AND CONTROLS ARE CARRIED OUT.

2. THE REPORTING OFFICERS GOT THE DISTINCT FEELING THAT MUCH OF THE SEVERE ACTION ON U.S. PORK IMPORTS RESULTED FROM A COMMUNICATIONS FAILURE I.E. THE FAILURE TO RECEIVE THE INFORMATION THAT WAS TRANSMITTED TO ALL EMBASSIES AT THE TIME OF THE OUTBREAK IN FEBRUARY. WE EXPRESSED OUR REGRETS ON THAT POINT.

3. WE DISCUSSED THE BEST MEANS TO ASSURE THAT SUCH INFORMATION WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO CARICOM COUNTRIES IN A TIMELY FASHION. THE CARICOM SECRETARIAT EXPRESSED THEIR INTEREST AND WILLINGNESS TO HAVE A ROLE. WE AGREED WE WOULD EXPLORE THE MEANS TO CABLE CRITICAL DISEASE INFORMATION TO THE CARICOM SECRETARIAT DIRECTLY SO THEY COULD HELP ASSURE TIMELY TRANSMISSION TO MEMBER COUNTRIES.

4. NO CHANGE IN POSITION WAS EXPRESSED BY ANY COUNTRY AT THE
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MEETING. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY FROM TRINIDAD PRIMARILY, WE

WERE ABLE TO EXPLAIN THAT WE COULD PROVIDE SPECIAL EXPORT
CERTIFICATION FOR PORK. FOR EXAMPLE-THAT PORK CERTIFIED IS DERIVED
FROM PIGS ORIGINATING IN A STATE THAT HAS BEEN FREE OF CHOLERA
FOR 3-6-9-12
MONTHS. WE CAN PROBABLY EXPECT SOME FURTHER COMMUNICATION WITH
APHIS-MPI TO PROVIDE FOR THIS TYPE OF SPECIAL EXPORT CERTIFICATION
FROM CERTAIN OF THE CARICOM COUNTRIES.

5. WE LEFT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY PLANNED TO
DISCUSS THE SITUATION FURTHER AND THERE WOULD BE A CONTACT
WITH APHIS THROUGH THE AGATT AT PORT OF SPAIN.
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